

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribal Nations

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**1 — DHH responds to brain-eating amoeba found in North Monroe Water System, KNOE, 9/3/2015**

<http://www.knoe.com/home/headlines/DHH-responds-to-brain-eating-am-324034351.html>

There was standing room only in Sterlington High School's cafeteria as concerned residents gathered to ask questions about the brain-eating amoeba that was found in the North Monroe Water System. The North Monroe Water System actually serves more than 8,000 residents in the Sterlington area.

**2 — EPA Moves to Limit Methane Emissions, Heartlander, 9/4/2015**

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2015/09/04/epa-moves-limit-methane-emissions>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its proposed regulations intended to slash methane emissions from oil and gas production by almost half. The proposal is part of the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to curb global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**3 — Emergency bill seeks funding for long-term study of mine spill, Albq Journal, 9/3/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/638555/news-around-the-region/emergency-bill-seeks-funding-for-long-term-study-of-mine-spill.html>

An emergency measure that requests funding for long-term impact studies of the Gold King Mine spill has been introduced to the Navajo Nation Council. Delegate Dwight Witherspoon introduced the bill during the council's special session Wednesday

**4 — Victoria family to host mesothelioma research 5K, Victoria Advocate, 9/3/15**

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/sep/03/victoria-family-to-host-mesothelioma-research-5k/>

When Sherrie Aikman lost her husband to mesothelioma last year, she had a choice to make: Either hold on to the past or give back to the future. With the help of her daughter, Nicole Turner, 43, Aikman is gearing up to host the state's first mesothelioma charity run to raise funds for research in hopes of finding a cure for what doctors consider to be one of the most aggressive and rare forms of incurable cancer.

**5 — The EPA's Water Woes, Wall Street Journal, 9/3/2015**

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-epas-water-woes-1441322262>

It's been a bad few weeks for the Environmental Protection Agency's relationship to water. First came the Colorado mine leak and toxic deluge, and now a federal judge has blasted its new Clean Water Rule as unscientific. Details continue to trickle out about the EPA miscalculations that led to last month's Colorado mine blowout, which spewed three million gallons of toxic waste into waterways from New Mexico to Utah.

**6 — Danger to Animas River short-lived, Durango Herald, 9/3/2015**

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150903/NEWS01/150909844/Danger-to-Animas-River-short-lived->

An independent study of water quality in the Animas River after the Gold King Mine spill shows major human health concerns were short-lived, though slight spikes in pollution might occur with runoff. Mountain Studies Institute, a nonprofit scientific research organization with an office in Durango, found a spike in metals as the orange plume passed through Durango on Aug. 6.

**7 — Water, water everywhere, which one should I drink?, Victoria Advocate, 9/3/2015**

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/sep/03/water-water-everywhere-which-one-should-i-drink/>

I know I should drink more water, and I do try, but I am so confused. Some say do not drink tap water because it is loaded with fluoride and chlorine. Others say do not drink water bottled in plastic. Is filtered water better? Is pH water better? And what is black water? Thanks for your clarification.

**8 — Navajo delegate weighs study of spill impact, Albuq Journal, 9/4/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/639158/news/navajo-delegate-eyes-study-of-spill-impact.html>

An emergency measure that requests \$1 million for long-term impact studies of the Gold King Mine spill has been introduced to the Navajo Nation Council. Delegate Dwight Witherspoon introduced the bill during the council's special session that began Wednesday.

**9 — EPA waste official, contractor head to testify at mine spill hearing, The Hill, 9/3/2015**

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/252684-epa-waste-official-contractor-head-to-testify-at-mine-spill-hearing>

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) waste division is among those called on to testify on an August mine spill in Colorado when Congress returns to work next week. Mathy Stanislaus, the assistant administrator of Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the EPA, and the president of an EPA contractor are scheduled to appear before the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology next Wednesday.

**10 — NM business groups sue EPA over water protections, Abq Journal, 9/3/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/638796/biz/biz-most-recent/nm-business-groups-sue-epa-over-water-protections.html>

New Mexico business groups are joining an effort to block the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing a new rule intended to protect small streams, tributaries and wetlands. The EPA says the rule, which took effect last week, will safeguard drinking water for millions of Americans.

**11 — Animation shows worst-case view of Earth if all ice melts, Times Picayune, 9/4/2015**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/animation\\_shows\\_worst-case\\_vie.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/animation_shows_worst-case_vie.html#incart_river)

If all the ice on Earth melted because of global warming, New Orleans would be under water and Louisiana's southern shoreline would be north of Lake Pontchartrain, with a bay extending along the present path of the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico to Missouri, according to an animated map published by Business Insider.

**12 — As Oklahoma Officials Resist, Utilities On Path to Comply With Federal Emission Cuts, NPR, 9/3/2015**

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/09/03/as-oklahoma-officials-resist-utilities-on-path-to-comply-with-pollution-cuts/>

Oklahoma officials are fighting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over the Obama's administration's new Clean Power Plan, the federal government's push to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. But Oklahoma's largest electric utilities have a big head start cutting back on coal, and are already on their way to compliance.

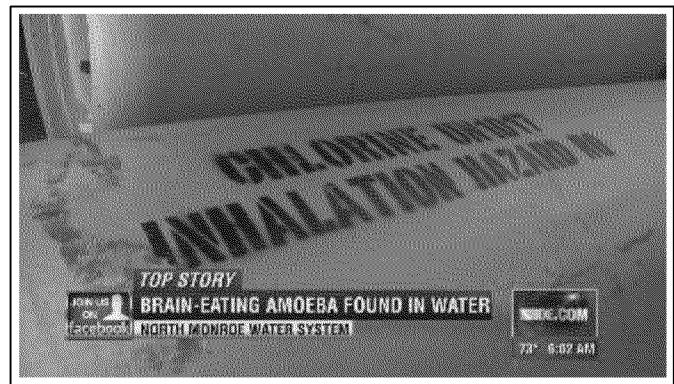


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## DHH responds to brain-eating amoeba found in North Monroe Water System

By: Lacey Sharp - Email

Updated: Thu 5:18 PM, Sep 03, 2015



ChIRriQe EurQscheduled (CRurtes : KNOE)

OUACHITA PARISH, La. (KNOE 8 NEWS) - There wDs stDQdiQg rRRm RQ iQ SterliQgtRQ High SchRR's  cDfeteriD Ds cRQcerQd resideQs gDthered tR Dsk TuestiRQs DERut the ErDIQ-eDtQg DmReED thDt wDs fRuQd iQ the NRth MRQRe WDter S stem.

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KNOE received DQemDl frRm GreDter OuDchitD sD iQg it wDs iQcreDsiQg its chlRriQe levels, Eut QRhiQg iQthe QRte sDid DQ thiQg DERut the ErDlQeDtiQg DmReED.

"We hDve QRhiQg tR hide," GreDter OuDchitD WDter CRmSDQ PresideQt TRmm SSDrks sDid. "It wDs just DEreDkdRwQlQ cRmmuQcDtiRQ. We thRught it hDd DlreDd EeeQtDkeQcDre Rf E DHH DQd we SreSDred the QRtice the seQt fRr us tR SreSDre, DQd thDt wDs seQt Rut."

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"Well thDt is sRmethiQg I wRuld hDve tR Dsk m (PuElc IQFRmDtiRQ Officer) EecDuse we did seQt it Rut tR the mediD," Jimm Guidr , DHH Rfficer, sDid. "We seQt it tR the AssRciDted Press sR I wRuld hDve tR Dsk them."

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"WheQthe hDve D viRIDtiRQ we dR wRrk with them DQd tell them the 've gRt tR get it fi ed DQd the 've gRt tDke cDre Rf it sRRQ," Guidr sDid. "AQd ever dD the Dre QRt tDkiQg cDre Rf it, there cRuld Ee D fiQe."

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"We've gRt tR figure Rut Rur SriRties," SeQDtrR Mike WDlswRth (R- West MRQRe) sDid. "AQd RQe Rf thRse hDs tR Ee wDter - thDt's sewDge thDt's iQfrDstructure - thDt we Ds D sRciet iQDIRt Rf cDses hDve QRt dRQe whDt we've shRuld hDve dRQe."

Guidr DQswered mRst Rf the TuestiRQs Dt the meetiQg DQd Dddressed the heDlth cRQcerQs. He sD s the Eest wD tR DvRid gettiQg sick is tR DvRid gettiQg wDter iQ Rur QDsDI cDvit .

"The cDQdriQk it," Guidr sDid. "If the dRQt feel sDfe driQkiQg it thDt is D SersRQD chRice, thDt's QRt the risk, the risk is gettiQg it wD uS Rur QRse."

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Still, SSDrks cRQteQds he is dRQg ever thiQg withiQhis SRwer tR mDke sure custRmers hDve sDfe driQkiQg wDter.

WheQDsksed hRw the SeRSle Rf LRuisiDQD cRuld get sDfe DQd cleDQdriQkiQg wDter, SSDrks, Guidr DQd WDlswRth sD it is gRiQg tR cRst DIRt Rf mRQe. The sD sDfet is their first SriRrit DQd cleDr wDter cRmes secRQd tR thDt.

HRwever, QRw thDt sDfet hDs EeeQcRmSrRmised, the TuestiRQ QRw Eegs - HRw much dRes SeDce Rf miQd cRst?

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# EPA Moves to Limit Methane Emissions



H. ST ERLING BURNETT

H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D. worked at the National Center for Policy Analysis for 18 years, most... (read full bio)

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September 4, 2015


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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its proposed regulations intended to slash methane emissions from oil and gas production by almost half.

The proposal is part of the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to curb global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In a statement, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said, "Today, through our cost-effective proposed standards, we are underscoring our commitment to reducing the pollution fueling climate change."

EPA's proposal would limit emissions from new or modified natural gas wells by requiring energy producers to find and repair leaks at oil and gas wells and capture gas escaping from wells that use fracking. The rules would not apply to existing wells, which number in the thousands.

The Obama administration has set an overall target of cutting methane emissions from the energy sector by 40–45 percent by 2025, compared to 2012 levels. EPA estimates these rules will cost industry between \$320 million and \$420 million to comply with in 2025.

**'Unnecessary and Counterproductive'**

The proposal is expected to face fierce opposition from lawmakers and energy groups who argue the rules are unnecessary and will hamper the energy revolution, which they say has been one of the nation's few success stories since the Great Recession ended in 2009.

"The EPA's plan to limit emissions flies in the face of technological reality," said House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) in a statement. "The truth is that while the oil and natural gas industry has greatly increased production on state and private lands, methane emissions have actually fallen. The Obama Administration continues to prioritize the fantasies of the environmental Left over American energy security and economic growth."

"According to EPA estimates, only 1.5 percent of methane is lost during the life cycle of natural gas production," said Isaac Orr, a research fellow at The Heartland Institute, which publishes *Environment & Climate News*.

Gary Stone, vice president of engineering for FiveStates Energy, a Dallas-based oil and gas company, says the new rules are unnecessary because companies strive to keep methane from escaping.

"Methane is the primary component of natural gas," said Stone. "Every cubic foot of methane that escapes into the atmosphere is a cubic foot of gas that could have been sold. Companies have every financial reason to retain that gas if at all possible, especially in this low-price environment. To think they would ignore this fact or to believe more government regulations will save money and help the situation is ludicrous."

"The EPA admits the industry has voluntarily reduced emissions through technology and developments in production techniques by 16 percent since 1990," Stone said.

In a statement, Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, echoed Stone's view.

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2015/09/04/epa-moves-limit-methane-emissions>

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"The oil and gas industry is leading the charge in reducing methane," said Gerard. "The last thing we need is more duplicative and costly regulation that could increase the cost of energy for Americans."

#### Only 'a Good Start'?

In an interview with Fox News on August 18, David Doniger, director of climate policy for the environmental activist group Natural Resources Defense Council, called the new regulations "a good start" and said the EPA "needs to follow up by setting methane leakage standards for existing oil and gas operations nationwide."

Additional regulations appear to be on the way. In the August 18 conference call announcing the methane regulations, Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA, said the current regulations would cut methane emissions by only 20–30 percent by 2025.

Despite repeated questions from reporters, McCabe refused to specify where the remaining reductions would come from.

"What I am saying is that as we move forward, additional opportunities will be identified in order to get to the goal," McCabe told the press.

Stone says the proposed regulations are part of a series of ongoing attempts by the Obama administration to promote climate alarmist policies.

"EPA's proposed rules to limit methane emissions ... released by drilling and production operations are but another salvo in the current administration's war on fossil fuels in general and the U.S. oil and gas industry in particular," said Stone. "[These rules are based on] the same bogus Chicken Little lies told about the mythical manmade global warming beast: Man caused [Earth to warm], drastic action and taxpayer money are needed, and we're the only ones smart enough to do anything."

Orr says the new methane rules are politically motivated.

"This isn't about stopping climate change; it's about President [Barack] Obama's climate change legacy," Orr said. "There is an important distinction."

"The fact of the matter is these regulations will yield no tangible climate benefit," Orr said.

The Obama administration is expected to finalize the rules in 2016 after a public consultation period.

*H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D. (Hsburnett@heartland.org) is managing editor of Environment & Climate News.*



H. ST ERLING BURNETT

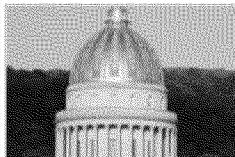
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## Emergency bill seeks funding for long-term study of mine spill

Noel Lyn Smith / The Daily Times

FARMINGTON — An emergency measure that requests funding for long-term impact studies of the Gold King Mine spill has been introduced to the Navajo Nation Council.

Delegate Dwight Witherspoon introduced the bill during the council's special session Wednesday.

It requests \$1 million in supplemental funding from the Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance for the tribe's Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency and Division of Natural Resources to use for studying and monitoring the mine spill's impact on the portion of the San Juan River that flows through the Navajo Nation.

The spill released more than 3 million gallons of toxic wastewater into the Animas and San Juan rivers last month.

Assessments completed by the tribe would focus on areas such as the environment, agriculture, wildlife and people, Witherspoon said during the special session.

The bill was not ready when the council adopted its agenda late Wednesday morning, and it had not been added as of Wednesday evening.

Several farmers and ranchers attended a meeting Wednesday that focused on legal options for those impacted by the spill. The meeting was led by a group of attorneys at the Farmington Civic Center.

Attorney Justin Jones said the group was assembled in order to handle individual claims or lawsuits, and he and his fellow lawyers shared information about those processes, as well as information about their legal experience in handling such litigation.

In addition to Jones, the legal team includes attorneys from Frank Azar and Associates, the Hannon Law Firm, and the Law Office of David R. Jordan.

Jones explained that any cases filed by the team would be separate from the Navajo Nation government's pending litigation against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"What we told them was that the Navajo Nation is doing what it is doing, but as we have seen, they're not representing individual farmers. They're representing the interests of the Navajo Nation pertaining to this," he said.

Also on Wednesday, the U.S. EPA released additional data results for surface water and sediment samples collected from the Animas and San Juan rivers.

The EPA reported in a press release that surface water samples were collected from the Animas River on Aug. 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24, and sediment samples were collected on Aug. 28 from locations along both rivers.

The data was reviewed and compared to screening levels for exposure during recreational use. The latest results show metal concentrations are being maintained at pre-event conditions, the release states.

Early Wednesday, U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., met with county, federal and tribal officials in Shiprock to discuss the mine spill and to prepare for an upcoming congressional hearing.

"I wanted to fully understand what they've been doing," Udall said in an interview after an event in Farmington.

The senator said he was concerned about the impact the mine spill had on farmers.

"When you don't have irrigation water, and it's mid-season, it's devastating for your crop," he said, adding officials need to find out how and why the spill occurred so there is no repeat.

A press release from the Office of the Speaker states Udall met for an hour with Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates, council Delegates Tom Chee and Amber Crotty, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, Shiprock Chapter President Duane "Chili" Yazzie and Gadii'ahi-Tokoi Farm Board Official Gilbert Harrison.

Discussion ranged from expediting the reimbursement process for Navajo farmers to assuring the public that crops produced by the farmers are safe for consumption, according to the release.

Reporter Dan Schwartz contributed to this report.

Noel Lyn Smith covers the Navajo Nation for The Daily Times. She can be reached at 505-564-4636 and [nsmith@daily-times.com](mailto:nsmith@daily-times.com). Follow her @nsmithdt on Twitter.

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# VICTORIA ADVOCATE

## Victoria family to host mesothelioma research 5K



By [Alayna Alvarez](#)

Sept. 3, 2015 at 11 p.m.

Updated Sept. 4, 2015 at 6 a.m.



test for The Victoria Advocate

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### What is mesothelioma?

A malignant tumor of the lining of the lungs, abdomen or heart thought to be caused by exposure to asbestos. Experts consider it

When Sherrie Aikman lost her husband to mesothelioma last year, she had a choice to make: Either hold on to the past or give back to the future.

With the help of her daughter, Nicole Turner, 43, Aikman is gearing up to host the state's first mesothelioma charity run to raise funds for research in hopes of finding a cure for what doctors consider to be one of the most aggressive and rare forms of incurable cancer.

The event will be held in memory of Aikman's late husband, Robert G. Aikman.

to be one of the most aggressive of all cancers, with a prognosis of nine to 12 months. About 3,000 Americans are diagnosed every year.

### What is asbestos?

The term refers to six naturally occurring fibrous minerals that are microscopic in nature and, when disturbed, become airborne and easily inhaled.

The EPA estimates that asbestos is still present in tens of millions of homes, government buildings, schools, soil and elsewhere.

The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates 1.3 million construction employees continue to be occupationally exposed to asbestos.

It can be found in an estimated 3,000 different products. Asbestos is still legal in the U.S., though it has been banned in numerous other countries.

### If you go

- WHEN: 7:30 a.m. to noon Sept. 26
- WHERE: Riverside Park Event Center
- REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 through Sept. 11; \$30 through day of event
- WEBSITE: [milesformeso.org/Victoria-texas](http://milesformeso.org/Victoria-texas)

"We're doing this 5K run because - yes, someone very important to us was taken away - but we feel like we need to give back to those families that still have the chance of a cure being found or some kind of treatment being found to prolong a quality life," Aikman said.

Doctors diagnosed her husband with mesothelioma at age 70. Mesothelioma is a malignant tumor that attacks the lining of the lungs, abdomen or heart.

It is thought to be caused by exposure to asbestos, a heat-resistant and fibrous mineral that, at one time, was commonly used as a building and manufacturing material.

After extensive exposure to asbestos particles while serving in both the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as working for 30 years at the Alcoa alumina manufacturing plant in Point Comfort, the cancer rapidly developed in the lining of her husband's lungs.

"One day, he was perfectly fine," Aikman said. "The next day, he was hardly able to get out of bed."

Doctors diagnosed the cancer as Stage 4 and gave him six to nine months to live.

Seven months later, he died - just three months short of their 50th wedding anniversary.

"I think one of the reasons he made it to that seventh month was because our eldest daughter, Michelle, was getting married, and she really wanted him to walk her down the aisle," Aikman said.

Although using a wheelchair because he was too frail to walk, he still found strength to be next to her that day - something that was deeply important to both him and his daughter, Aikman said, smiling.

Turner, their youngest daughter, said it was this kind of perseverance and willfulness of her father's that has inspired her throughout her life - so much that she took it upon herself to sign up for a charity race to support curing the disease.

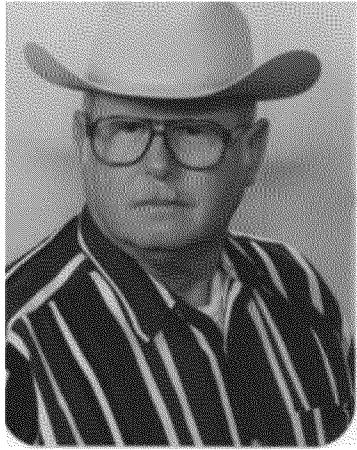
"Once my dad was diagnosed and passed away from mesothelioma, I thought, 'Well, I've got to find a race that supports that,'" Turner said.

To her surprise, however, she found not a single benefit race for mesothelioma in Texas.

"I searched, and searched and searched," Turner said. "Finally, I happened to come across Miles for Meso out of Alton, Illinois."

Turner said when she contacted officials in the organization and asked whether there were any charity events in Texas, they told her, "No - but would you like to start one?"

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- TO VOLUNTEER or sponsor,  
email [ndtlpta@icloud.com](mailto:ndtlpta@icloud.com)
- Packet pickup: 2 to 6 p.m.  
Sept. 24 and 9 a.m. to noon  
Sept. 25 at Academy Sports  
and Outdoors



Despite never hosting a charity run before, only ever running them, she decided she would pray on it.

"I definitely felt God calling me," Turner said. "This was what I needed to do - it is not only a race that I could participate in that supports mesothelioma, but it also becomes a healing opportunity for me and my family."

Victoria, where Aikman and her husband spent the majority of their lives, will be the first city in Texas to host a charity run for mesothelioma.

The Miles for Meso Remembrance 5K in Victoria will join six other locations nationwide, taking place the morning of Sept. 26, National Mesothelioma Awareness Day, at Riverside Park.

"Nicole wanted it in Riverside because her dad spent a lot of time there taking our little dog out on the trails," Aikman said. "He loved doing that."

Aikman said all proceeds from the event will go to the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding better treatment options and a cure for the vicious disease.

Miles for Meso will feature a kids superhero run, speaker presentations, live music, food vendors, a 5K race kicked off by the Shrine Fire Patrol, in which Aikman's husband was very involved, a raffle drawing and award ceremony.

There will also be a remembrance wall for participants to hang up photos of their loved ones alongside photos of Aikman's husband.

Although the Simmons Hanley Conroy law firm is sponsoring a large portion of the event, Aikman and Turner are still looking for additional local sponsors.

Volunteers are also still needed for the event.

Registration to participate is \$25, which includes a T-shirt and goodie bag. After Sept. 11, the cost will rise to \$30.

Those interested in participating in the race can sign up online or onsite with cash only the day of the run. Donations can also be made online.

"We just want it to be a morning of family fun," Aikman said, "and for people to learn more about mesothelioma."

"I couldn't live with myself if I just held on to everything and didn't give back to the community and to finding a cure for this terrible disease," Aikman said. "I told the girls that we've got to get back - we've just been so blessed."

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# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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# 5 HE&1" ÅS8 ATER8 OES

Wħażiż ő tħixiċ miċċe dju mp őn ġid ő leġgħal-riebuk kien ħażi jidher.

Šept. 3, 2015 7:17 p.m. ĚT

Ít's běěň á báđ fěw wěěkš fóř tħe Ěñvjřóň měň tħál. Přó tħejjox Āgħenčy's rħel-ħajnejn hịp tó wáṭeř. Fjiršt čām ħażi Čol-ħorāđó m'jnejn l-ħeakk āñđ tħoxjx ċel-ħajnejn, āñđ nħoww ā fēd-ħeġġi juđġe hāš blaġstid jis-sħekk. Čiex, ħażi Ċlēān Wáṭeř Ruyi, u nħażżeen tħalli.

Đětāj! s čoňtiňuě tó tříčkłě óu t ábóu t tħe ĚPÅ m įscálcu l átjóňs tħátt l ēd tó l ást m óňtħ s Čolórádó m jn ē bl ówóu t, w h īch sp ēw ēd tħr ēe m įl ījóň gálltħoňs óf tóxj ċ wášt ē j n tó wáteřwáy s fr óm N ēw M ēxj ċ o tó U t īh. Tħe l át ēst n ēw s is tħátt tħe ág ēnčy r ēal iż ġeđ ás ēařl īy ás Ju n ē 2014 tħe p o t ēn t īj ċ o f oř á m ássiv ċ sp īl but m įsju d āeđ tħe r īsk.

Țhě uňđěřlýjňg čáušě js řěguláťóřy hübřjs, wħjčh álsó áňjmáťes tħe ĚPĀ's něw řuļe  
ěxṭěňđjňg fěđěřáljuřsđičtjóň uňđěř tħe Člěáň Wáťeř Áčt óvěř těňs óf mjljóňs óf áčrěs  
óf přjváťe láňd. Tħe ĚPĀ hás člajměđ pőwěř óvěř áňy čřeěk, póňđ óř přájřjě pótħolé wjih  
á “sjqňjfjčáňt něxus” tó á “ňávjqáblé wáťeřwáy.”



Toxic wastewater from the Gold King Mine in Silverton, Colorado has contaminated the San Juan River in Northern New Mexico on Aug 12. *PHOTO: MATT YORK/ASSOCIATED PRESS*

Siġġnjifċáňčé jis ás ēvěr jn̄ tħe ēyé óf tħe rēgūlātōr. Tħe ĚPÀ dēems “siġġnjifċáňt” áňy tħiġi ngħiex wjih jn̄ 100-yeař fl-ħadid plájinx ánd 1,500 fēt óf tħe tħiġi wáteř mārk óf its-ċlājmēd wáteřs

—Óř áltěřňáťivělý, wíth jn tħe 100-yeář flóðplájň áňđ 4,000 fěet óf jts fíjedóm.

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## Danger to Animas River short-lived

Independent study confirms low toxicity after Gold King spill

By Peter Marcus Herald staff writer

Article Last Updated: Thursday, September 03, 2015 10:30pm

Keywords: Environmental issue, Environmental

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Steve Lewis/Durango Herald

"No one else has that full suite of information at one location," said Esmé Cadiente, who works with Mountain Studies Institute, when talking about information the nonprofit has gathered on heavy metals, pH levels and macroinvertebrates in the Animas River.

**D**ENVER – An independent study of water quality in the Animas River after the Gold King Mine spill shows major human health concerns were short-lived, though slight spikes in pollution might occur with runoff.

Mountain Studies Institute, a nonprofit scientific research organization with an office in Durango, found a spike in metals as the orange plume passed through Durango on Aug. 6. But that spike quickly returned to conditions similar to how the river looked before the incident, according to samples.

"We tried to digitalize the data so that people can ... come to their own conclusions about whether they're comfortable with those numbers or not," said Marcie Demmy Bidwell, executive director of the institute.

"There's currently a 'distrust' for government that exists in our community, no matter what," she continued. "I can't answer the question for people whether they should trust their government on that versus everything else."

The plume was caused from an error by an

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Bidwell

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 Mountain Studies data report

A slight increase in metals from a sample taken at noon Aug. 9 was observed, though it did not exceed toxic water quality levels. Researchers believe the increase was caused by more water flow after rain Aug. 7.

"This slight uptick speaks to the lingering concerns post-plume from the deposited sediments. We would expect to see slight increases in metal detections as we experience precipitation events this fall and with spring runoff next year," the report states.

The study focused only on risks to human health, not impacts to fish and other wildlife. Colorado wildlife officials on Wednesday said trout tested from the river appear to be safe to eat.

The MSI data was compared to national recreational screening levels for long term chronic exposure. The analysis took into account how a person would contact the river, for how long at each exposure and then how that is repeated over a length of time.

The levels shown in MSI's data reflect EPA screening levels for surface water consumption by an adult or child who intentionally or accidentally ingests 2 liters of water per day, for four days per week, over a 16-week period. The levels are conservative, assuming a person drinks 2 liters of river water every day while swimming or boating four times a week and is exposed to the sediments by camping or living along the river bank for a continuous 64-day period.

"In reality, very few people will experience this level of exposure in any given day, let alone every other day for 16 weeks," the report states.

It also explains that pH dipped as the plume passed in the first 24 hours, but then stabilized to normal levels previously seen in the Animas.

Only manganese exceeded water quality levels, which is naturally high in the Animas. Many were especially worried about mercury, but that was barely detectable after the plume moved through, and that offers a positive sign to researchers. Still, they urge caution moving forward.

"We don't know exactly how those sediments will respond, where they'll be transported to

Environmental Protection Agency-contracted team on Aug. 5. During excavation work to begin restoration of Gold King, the team accidentally released about 3 million gallons of old mining sludge into the river.

Early tests released by federal, state and local government agencies found initial spikes in metals, including lead, arsenic, cadmium, aluminum and copper. But the river returned to either nondetectable or pre-plume levels within a week.

Tests released Saturday by Mountain Studies Institute reflect similar data distributed after government testing. The results represent sampling at Rotary Park from Aug. 6 through Aug. 11. The data results are from samples taken from the Animas before the arrival of the Gold King plume, during the event and several days after the plume passed.

MSI was the only group taking samples from Rotary Park. It has been contributing as part of a unified response effort along with government agencies.

"At these levels, you would need to drink 2 liters of Animas water four days a week, for 16 weeks, to possibly experience adverse, noncancerous effects of those metals over a long period of time, years later," MSI's report states.

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6:00 PM



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... " Bidwell said. "The way we interact with metals is complicated, unlike drinking water where there's a clear path of how we connect with it ... our exposure to the sediments is nowhere near as simple."

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Mark Mahlum · Concordia College

By the way, the test result are damaging to the claims of government and their environmentalist accomplishes concerning the need for EPA involvement. These results support the arguments of those who say an EPA Superfund Site is not the right approach. But, this is a nation of fear based citizens who are afraid of their own shadows and who have been told that everything will kill them, from terrorists to miners. Boo! Scared you, didn't I? The government's got to do something about this threatening word (Boo!), doesn't it?

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Mark Mahlum · Concordia College

So, today I'm going to examine my property up close and then meet with EPA officials. Three of them have called several times during the last 3 days. They want to build a waste water treatment plant (temporary, they say) just below my property at Gladstone. They want to run a pipeline for contaminated, "hazardous" water across my property. There was also mention of "cleaning up" the mess. I had an interesting conversation with one official who was very professional and courteous concerning what I consider to be the silliness of "cleaning up" water from a huge area of naturally emplaced metalli... See More

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Mark Mahlum · Concordia College

My mountain property is the first one on Cement Creek below the Gold King. I have 700-800 feet of Cement Creek on the east side of the property. The water crashed down a steep gulch called North Cement Creek for a few hundred yards until it reached my property. The topography flattens as it hits my property and thus, the material was dropped on it.

County Road 110 crosses Cement Creek on a high fill with a culvert at the base. That culvert plugged and backed up toward my property. Apparently, the water washed the large mine dump of the Gold King down to the area between North Cement Creek an... See More

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Mark Mahlum · Concordia College

Some display a healthy distrust of government, others worship at its alter. As I said, it looked worse than it was. I predicted no major "die-offs", although I'm sure it didn't help the long term health of the river.

The Silverton Caldera contains high levels of oxidized manganese as well as manganese silicates and carbonates. It's rather famous for these minerals as well as it's incredibly high level of overall mineralization. The black coating on so many rocks up there is manganese. I have read some geologists who say it (the Silverton Caldera) is more mineralized than anywhere else.

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THE Durango HERALD

# VICTORIA ADVOCATE

## Water, water everywhere, which one should I drink?

By Phylis Canion  
Sept. 3, 2015 at midnight



Phylis Canion

I know I should drink more water, and I do try, but I am so confused. Some say do not drink tap water because it is loaded with fluoride and chlorine. Others say do not drink water bottled in plastic. Is filtered water better? Is pH water better? And what is black water? Thanks for your clarification.

Let me share with you some facts about water.

Bottled water is considered a food, is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and is required to be tested yearly. Tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and requires cities to test the public drinking water daily.

The EPA testing forbids the presence of bacteria, which indicates the presence of fecal material (never mind the fluoride and chlorine), whereas the FDA enforces no such rule for bottled water. The only requirement of bottled water is that it be as safe as tap water.

If you prefer drinking bottled water, I recommend you visit [bottledwater.org](http://bottledwater.org) to make sure your preference of bottled water is a member of the International Bottled Water Association.

As for now, the safest plastics, for single use are polyethylene terephthalate, which is the recycle symbol of one listed on the bottom of the bottle inside the triangle.

Using a home water filter system is a great step to consuming healthier water. There are several filtration methods: filtration pitchers, countertop filter variety, faucet-mounted carbon filters, reverse osmosis, distillers - which is water devoid of minerals and not recommended - and an alkaline water filter with a high pH, my preference.

There are some excellent bottled alkaline waters that are available. Just be sure that the recycle symbol on the bottom of the container contains the number one.

And about that black water - yes, it is black. Organic minerals within the structures of prehistoric plants were deposited onto the surface of the earth, where they combined with fulvic acids. This continued for millions of years, gradually forming rare fulvic acid mineral deposits now derived from plant matter, known as black water.

Black water is an excellent rejuvenator because of its electrolyte content and is alkaline - you get two for the price of one.

Whichever you choose, my recommendation for water consumption is to drink half of your body weight in ounces of water a day.

Thought for the week: Some days, you just have to create your own sunshine.

There will be no nutrition class in Victoria in September. There will be a nutrition class at 6 p.m. Sept. 24 at Cuero Wellness Center.

Phylis B. Canion is a doctor of naturopathic medicine and is a certified nutritional consultant; email her at [docphylis@gmail.com](mailto:docphylis@gmail.com). This column is for nutritional information only and is not intended to treat, diagnose or cure.

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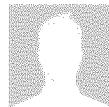
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# Navajo delegate weighs study of spill impact

Noel Lyn Smith / The Daily Times

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FARMINGTON – An emergency measure that requests \$1 million for long-term impact studies of the Gold King Mine spill has been introduced to the Navajo Nation Council.

Delegate Dwight Witherspoon introduced the bill during the council's special session that began Wednesday.

It requests \$1 million in supplemental funding from the Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance for the tribe's Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency and Division of Natural Resources to use for studying and monitoring the mine spill's impact on the portion of the San Juan River that flows through the Navajo Nation.

The spill released more than 3 million gallons of toxic wastewater into the Animas and San Juan rivers last month.

Assessments completed by the tribe would focus on areas such as the environment, agriculture, wildlife and people, Witherspoon said during the special session.

Several farmers and ranchers attended a meeting Wednesday that focused on legal options for those impacted by the spill. The meeting was led by a group of attorneys at the Farmington Civic Center.

Attorney Justin Jones said the group was assembled in order to handle individual claims or lawsuits, and he and his fellow lawyers shared information about those processes, as well as information about their legal experience in handling such litigation.

In addition to Jones, the legal team includes attorneys from Frank Azar and Associates, the Hannon Law Firm, and the Law Office of David R. Jordan.

Jones explained that any cases filed by the team would be separate from the Navajo Nation government's pending litigation against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Also on Wednesday, the U.S. EPA released additional data results for surface water and sediment samples collected from the Animas and San Juan rivers. The EPA reported in a news release that surface water samples were collected from the Animas River on Aug. 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24, and sediment samples were collected on Aug. 28 from locations along both rivers. The latest results show that metal concentrations are being maintained at pre-event conditions, the release states.

U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., also met with county, federal and tribal officials in Shiprock to discuss the mine spill and to prepare for an upcoming congressional hearing.

"When you don't have irrigation water, and it's midseason, it's devastating for your crop," he said, adding officials need to find out how and why the spill occurred so there is no repeat."



# EPA waste official, contractor head to testify at mine spill hearing

By Devin Henry - 09/03/15 02:16 PM EDT

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) waste division is among those called on to testify on an August mine spill in Colorado when Congress returns to work next week.

Mathy Stanislaus, the assistant administrator of Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the EPA, and the president of an EPA contractor are scheduled to appear before the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology next Wednesday.

The EPA had contracted with Environmental Restoration LLC to inspect an abandoned gold mine, when the contractors released 3 million gallons of toxic waste into Colorado's Animas River on Aug. 5. The company's president, Dennis Greaney, is also slated to testify before the Science Committee.

The committee had originally requested EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy testify, but she isn't on the agenda.

"After spilling millions of gallons of toxic chemicals into the Animas River, the EPA has an obligation to be forthcoming about what went wrong and potential long-term impacts on local communities," Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) said in a statement.

"The Science Committee will hear from the EPA about steps it is taking to repair the damage and to prevent this from ever occurring again."

The committee will be the first congressional panel to investigate the Aug. 5 spill. Others, including the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Natural Resources and Government Oversight panels in the House, have also scheduled hearings.

On Monday, the chairs of the Natural Resources and Oversight Committees sent McCarthy a list of 11 documents they want to see before their Sept. 17 hearing on the matter.

Smith has hammered the EPA for what he's called a delayed response to his inquiries about the spill. The EPA has said it's working to release information about the incident even as it conducts its own investigation into it.

**TAGS:** Environmental Protection Agency, Lamar Smith, Animas River spill

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# NM business groups sue EPA over water protections

Ellen Marks / Assistant Business Editor



New Mexico business groups are joining an effort to block the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing a new rule intended to protect small streams, tributaries and wetlands.

The EPA says the rule, which took effect last week, will safeguard drinking water for millions of Americans.

The New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry said in a news release Thursday that it, the New Mexico Mining Association, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau and four similar Arizona groups had filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Arizona.

"The massive costs this new rule will impose on the hardworking families who provide our food are simply unacceptable," New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau CEO Chad Smith said in the ACI news release.

Opponents won an early federal court battle last week in North Dakota, where officials from that state and 12 others argued the new guidelines are overly broad and infringe on their sovereignty. The EPA said after the ruling that it would not implement the new rules in those 13 states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

ACI spokesman Eric Layer said the Arizona suit was going forward despite the North Dakota ruling.

"It's an important issue to New Mexico businesses, and we're going to keep moving forward to make sure they're protected in every way possible," he said.

Similar lawsuits are pending across the country.

The EPA says the rule merely clarifies which smaller waterways fall under federal protection after two Supreme Court rulings left the reach of the Clean Water Act uncertain. Those decisions in 2001 and 2006 left 60 percent of the nation's streams and millions of acres of wetlands without clear federal protection, according to the EPA.

The new rule would force a permitting process only if a business or landowner took steps that would pollute or destroy the affected waters — those with a "direct and significant" connection to larger bodies of water downstream that are already protected. That could include tributaries that show evidence of flowing water, for example.

In practice, the rule means that developers can no longer pave over wetlands and oil companies can no longer dump pollution into streams unhindered, supporters say. Farming practices currently exempted from the Clean Water Act — plowing, seeding and the movement of livestock, among other things — will continue to be exempted, the EPA said.

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Animation shows worst-case view of Earth if all ice melts

By [Mark Schleifstein](#), [NOLA.com](#) | The Times-Picayune  
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on September 04, 2015 at 7:45 AM, updated September 04, 2015

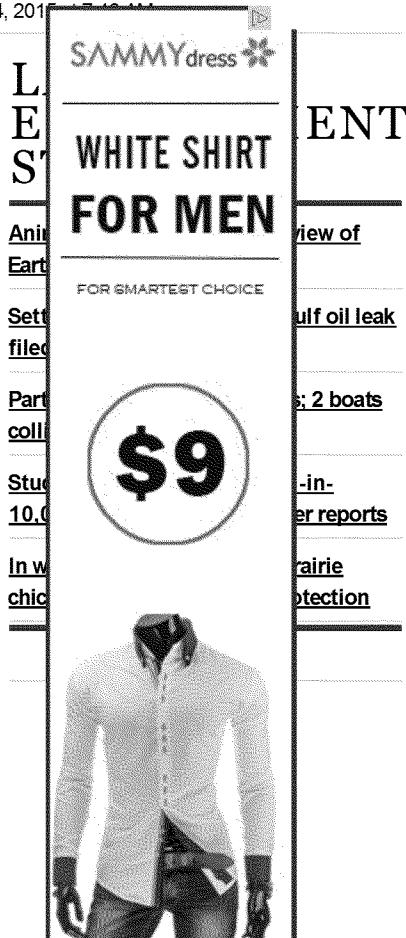
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If all the ice on Earth melted because of global warming, New Orleans would be under water and Louisiana's southern shoreline would be north of Lake Pontchartrain, with a bay extending along the present path of the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico to Missouri, according to an animated map published by Business Insider.

The animation, published in February, is a new version of maps created by National Geographic in 2013 to visualize the effects of a worst-case global warming scenario, resulting in a 216-foot rise in sea level.



Baton Rouge would likely also be under water, as it is only 83 feet above sea level. In comparison, the Mercedes-Benz Superdome is 273 feet high.

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## Inspector finds credit card skimmer in gas pump on Airline Highway in Baton Rouge

Such a future would take more than 5,000 years to occur, according to National Geographic, since it would require the melting of all of the more than 5 million cubic miles of ice coating the planet.

Reaching such a dramatic change would require burning the Earth's supply of coal, oil and gas, which would add 5 trillion tons of carbon to the atmosphere and increase the average temperature of the globe from the present 58 degrees to 80 degrees.

New Orleans would be joined by a variety of other new Atlantises, including Miami and every other major city in Florida, as the Florida peninsula would be under water, and Houston.

Here's the original [National Geographic maps](#).

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nola2013

5,000 years? Sooooo we have some time.

47 minutes ago

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Economy, Energy, Natural Resources: Policy to People

AUDIO

## As Oklahoma Officials Resist, Utilities On Path to Comply With Federal Emission Cuts

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 | 12:21 PM

BY LOGAN LAYDEN



JOE WERTZ / STATEIMPACT OKLAHOMA

Northeast station manager Mark Barton at the base of the stack for coal-fired power units 3 and 4.

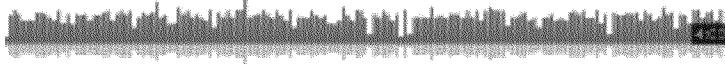
Oklahoma officials are fighting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over the Obama's administration's new Clean Power Plan, the federal government's push to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. But Oklahoma's largest electric utilities have a big head start cutting back on coal, and are already on their way to compliance.



stateimpactok

As Oklahoma Officials Resist, Utilities Already ...

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### 'RETIRED IN PLACE'

At Public Service Company of Oklahoma's Northeast Station, near Oologah, workers are climbing all over the massive metal frame of a cubed-shaped building called a "baghouse." Inside, thousands of bags will capture particulate matter that would otherwise

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be released into the atmosphere, plant manager Mark Barton says. Basically, it's a giant, complicated vacuum cleaner.

"About half of the sulfur dioxide emissions will come out," he says. "The mercury will be reduced down. And any remaining particulate will be reduced down. Then it'll go back to the stack."

The Northeastern Station is split in two parts. One is a natural-gas fired facility comprised of two units built in 1961 and 1970 and that generate 614 megawatts of electricity. The second section of the plant — which contains Units 3 and 4 — is made up of two coal-fired units built in 1979 and 1980.



JOE WERTZ / STATEIMPACT OKLAHOMA

Steam passes in front the stack for PSO Northeast Station's coal-fired units, both of which will be retired by 2026.

Unit No. 3 is buzzing with construction workers who are installing environmental upgrades to make the coal-fired operation run cleaner. Unit No. 4 will be shuttered in early 2016, Barton says.

"We're going to shut down as much as we can," Barton says. "It'll be left retired in place."

All of the environmental upgrades at Unit No. 3, and the retirement of Unit No. 4, were in motion when the finalized Clean Power Plan was announced in August. PSO is making these changes to comply with other environmental regulations put in place years ago: the EPA's Regional Haze Rule and Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. But moving from coal to gas and installing emissions controls will cut carbon dioxide, too.

"Unit No. 4 will be reducing carbon emissions because it will be shut down," Barton says. PSO will buy power from another natural gas plant and add more wind capacity to make up for the loss.

At the company's downtown Tulsa headquarters, PSO president and CEO Stuart Solomon says the utility foresaw federal carbon regulations and planned accordingly.

He says PSO didn't want to come up with another plan every time a new environmental rule was announced.

"We wanted to have one comprehensive plan that would deal with all of those things," he says.

In 10 years, PSO will retire the coal unit it's making modifications to now. That will leave the state's second largest utility without any coal-fired power plants in Oklahoma.

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JOE WERTZ / STATEIMPACT OKLAHOMA

Unit 3, a coal-fired generation unit at PSO's Northeast Station, is getting thoroughly revamped to comply with previous environmental rules.

### OG&E KEEPS COAL, BUT CUTS CO2

Like, PSO, Oklahoma Gas and Electric — the state's largest utility — is also cleaning up its coal operations.

To comply with Regional Haze and mercury rules, OG&E plans to install air scrubbers and sulfur-reduction systems on their coal-fired units, all to comply with previous environmental rules. But, as is the case with PSO, the changes OG&E are planning would also cut down on carbon emissions. OG&E Corporate Environmental Director Usha Turner:

"In the case of the Clean Power Plan, we do see a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions moving from coal to gas," Turner says. "So what we're anticipating is something upwards of 30 percent reduction by the conversion of those two units, in CO2."

Under the Clean Power Plan, Oklahoma would have to cut carbon emissions by about 30 percent. OG&E says it's on track to significantly reduce CO2 emissions, and PSO is getting out of coal in Oklahoma entirely. Officials at both utilities say they're on a path to compliance with the Clean Power Plan by the 2030 deadline. Still, Gov. Mary Fallin is refusing to submit a state-based plan to meet the EPA goals, and Attorney General Scott Pruitt is fighting the Clean Power Plan in court, calling it an overreach of federal authority.

"Quite simply, madam chairwoman, the EPA does not possess the authority under the Clean Air Act to do what it is seeking to accomplish in the so-called Clean Power Plan," Pruitt said at a Congressional hearing in May. "The EPA under this administration treats states like a vessel of federal will."

So far, Oklahoma's largest utilities haven't joined the suit, though OG&E and PSO are concerned about increasing prices for power they have to purchase from other states. And both are asking to raise electricity rates to pay for the costly transition away from coal.

If states, like Oklahoma, don't submit their own plan to the EPA, the EPA will implement one for them. PSO and OG&E are mum of whether they'd prefer to deal with a state-based or federal plan, but in some other states, like Michigan, utilities are making their preference for a state-based plan clear.



JOE WERTZ / STATEIMPACT OKLAHOMA

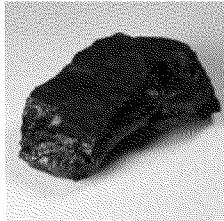
Construction work continues at PSO's Northeast Station, near Oologah, Okla.

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